

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A microphone comprising:
 - 2 a) a plurality of electrical contacts for interfacing with an external device;
 - 3 and
 - 4 b) a circuit within the microphone, connected to at least one electrical
 - 5 contact, that provides the external device with data about the microphone.

- 1 2. (Original) The microphone of claim 1 where the circuit forces the voltage
2 potential between the at least one electrical contact and another of the plurality of
3 electrical contacts to be zero.

- 1 3. (Original) The microphone of claim 1 where the circuit forces the voltage
2 potential between the at least one electrical contact and a ground electrical contact
3 to be zero.

1 4. (Original) The microphone of claim 1 where the circuit includes a resistor
2 having a first and a second terminal, the first resistor terminal being connected to
3 the at least one electrical contact, the second resistor terminal connected to
4 another of the plurality of electrical contacts.

1 5. (Original) The microphone of claim 1 where the circuit includes a
2 capacitor having a first and a second terminal, the first capacitor terminal being
3 connected to the at least one electrical contact, the second capacitor terminal
4 connected to another of the plurality of electrical contacts.

1 6. (Original) The microphone of claim 1 where the circuit includes an
2 inductor having a first and a second terminal, the first inductor terminal being
3 connected to the at least one electrical contact, the second inductor terminal
4 connected to another of the plurality of electrical contacts.

1 7. (Original) The microphone of claim 1 where the circuit includes a
2 programmable read only memory storing data that identifies at least one of the
3 following: the microphone manufacturer, the microphone manufacture date, the
4 microphone model number, the microphone serial number, the microphone
5 frequency response, whether the microphone uses phantom power, the desired
6 pre-amplifier gain, and the microphone dynamic response.

1 8. (Original) The microphone of claim 1 where the circuit includes a serial
2 programmable read only memory storing data that identifies at least one of the
3 following: the microphone manufacturer, the microphone manufacture date, the
4 microphone model number, the microphone serial number, the microphone
5 frequency response, whether the microphone uses phantom power, the desired
6 pre-amplifier gain, or the microphone dynamic response.

1 9. (Original) The microphone of claim 1 where the circuit includes a serial
2 electrically erasable programmable read only memory storing data that identifies
3 at least one of the following: the microphone manufacturer, the microphone
4 manufacture date, the microphone model number, the microphone serial number,
5 the microphone frequency response, whether the microphone uses phantom
6 power, the desired pre-amplifier gain, or the microphone dynamic response.

1 10. (Currently amended) An interface unit comprising:
2 a) a first connector having a plurality of electrical contacts for interfacing
3 with a microphone, wherein the microphone includes data about the
4 microphone; and
5 b) a second connector having a plurality of electrical contacts for interfacing
6 with a computer system via a digital bus;

7 wherein the interface unit is operable to obtain data from the microphone,
8 about the microphone,; and
9 wherein the interface unit is operable to transmit the data to the computer
10 system.

1 11. (Original) The interface unit of claim 10 further comprising:

- 2 c) an amplifier for amplifying an analog signal received from the
- 3 microphone;
- 4 d) an analog-to-digital converter, coupled to the amplifier;
- 5 e) a buffer, coupled to the analog-to-digital converter;
- 6 f) a bus interface coupled to the buffer; and
- 7 g) an I/O port for communicating with a computer system.

1 12. (Original) The interface unit of claim 11, wherein the analog-to-digital
2 converter is also coupled to a microphone bias circuit.

1 13. (Original) The interface unit of claim 11, wherein the analog-to-digital
2 converter is also coupled to a microphone bias circuit that contains a resistor
3 having a first terminal and a second terminal, the first resistor terminal connected
4 to at least one of the first connector's plurality of electrical contacts.

1 14. (Original) The interface unit of claim 11, wherein the first connector's
2 plurality of electrical contacts includes a first electrical contact and a second
3 electrical contact;
4 wherein the bus interface is coupled to the first electrical contact, which contains a
5 serial clock signal; and
6 wherein the bus interface is coupled to the second electrical contact, which
7 contains serial data signals.

1 15. (Original) The interface unit of claim 11, further comprising a switch that
2 is configured to identify a physical parameter of a microphone.

1 16. (Original) The interface unit of claim 15, wherein the switch is coupled to
2 the bus interface.

1 17. (Original) The bus interface of claim 10 further comprising a third
2 connector for interfacing with a second microphone.

1 18. (Original) The interface unit of claim 10 further comprising a third
2 connector for interfacing with another interface unit.

1 19. (Currently amended) A microphone comprising:

2 a) a connector having a plurality of electrical contacts for interfacing with a
3 computer system via a digital bus; and
4 b) wherein the microphone is operable to transmit data about the microphone
5 to the computer system via the connector, wherein the microphone includes
6 data about the microphone.

1 20. (Original) The microphone of claim 19 further comprising a
2 programmable read only memory storing data that identifies at least one of the
3 following: the microphone manufacturer, the microphone manufacture date, the
4 microphone model number, the microphone serial number, the microphone
5 frequency response, whether the microphone uses phantom power, the desired
6 pre-amplifier gain, and the microphone dynamic response.

1 21. (Original) The microphone of claim 19 further comprising a serial
2 programmable read only memory storing data that identifies at least one of the
3 following: the microphone manufacturer, the microphone manufacture date, the
4 microphone model number, the microphone serial number, the microphone
5 frequency response, whether the microphone uses phantom power, the desired
6 pre-amplifier gain, or the microphone dynamic response.

1 22. (Original) The microphone of claim 19 further comprising a serial
2 electrically erasable programmable read only memory storing data that identifies
3 at least one of the following: the microphone manufacturer, the microphone
4 manufacture date, the microphone model number, the microphone serial number,
5 the microphone frequency response, whether the microphone uses phantom
6 power, the desired pre-amplifier gain, or the microphone dynamic response.

1 23. (Currently amended) A method of transferring data to a computer system,
2 the method comprising:

- 3 a) interfacing a microphone with an interface unit, wherein the microphone
4 provides the interface unit with data about the microphone;
5 b) interfacing the interface unit with a computer system; and
6 c) transferring data about the microphone from the interface unit to the
7 computer system.

1 24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising modifying at least
2 one setting in the computer system based at least in part on the transferred data.

1 25. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising modifying at least
2 one setting in the interface unit based at least in part on the transferred data.

1 26. (Currently amended) A method of transferring data to a computer system,
2 the method comprising:
3 a) interfacing a microphone with a computer system, wherein the microphone
4 provides the interface unit with data about the microphone; and
5 b) transferring data about the microphone, from the microphone to the
6 computer system.

1 27. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising modifying at least
2 one setting in the computer system based at least in part on the transferred data.

1 28. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising modifying at least
2 one setting in the microphone based at least in part on the transferred data.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The microphone of claim of 1, wherein the data
2 about the microphone identifies at least one of the following: the microphone
3 manufacturer, the microphone manufacture date, the microphone model number,
4 the microphone serial number, the microphone frequency response, whether the
5 microphone uses phantom power, the desired pre-amplifier gain, and the
6 microphone dynamic response.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The interface unit of claim of 10, wherein the data
2 about the microphone is related to at least one of the following: the microphone
3 manufacturer, the microphone manufacture date, the microphone model number,
4 the microphone serial number, the microphone frequency response, whether the
5 microphone uses phantom power, the desired pre-amplifier gain, and the
6 microphone dynamic response.

1 31. (Previously Presented) The microphone of claim 19, wherein the data
2 transmitted is related to at least one of the following: the microphone
3 manufacturer, the microphone manufacture date, the microphone model number,
4 the microphone serial number, the microphone frequency response, whether the
5 microphone uses phantom power, the desired pre-amplifier gain, and the
6 microphone dynamic response.

1 32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the data about the
2 microphone is related to at least one of the following: the microphone
3 manufacturer, the microphone manufacture date, the microphone model number,
4 the microphone serial number, the microphone frequency response, whether the
5 microphone uses phantom power, the desired pre-amplifier gain, and the
6 microphone dynamic response.

1 33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the data about the
2 microphone is related to at least one of the following: the microphone
3 manufacturer, the microphone manufacture date, the microphone model number,
4 the microphone serial number, the microphone frequency response, whether the
5 microphone uses phantom power, the desired pre-amplifier gain, and the
6 microphone dynamic response.